

Shadows of the Raven

by Icyz9

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Summary: The power of the raven is more powerful than anyone thinks... Hated by her mother, scorned by her Clanmates, all because she is "a raven." But nobody knows the power she holds or the beauty in her name, not even her...

1. Prologue

****A/N:** Hey peeps! If you were a big fan of Briarstar's Choice, I am very sorry to say this, but since the story isn't that popular and I don't feel like writing it anymore, it's going to be discontinued. I might update a few more times, but not, like, every week or so. Probably just every two months :(Another bad thing is that I deleted Soundless because it wasn't popular either. So we have come to a conclusion. Please read and review. I would like to have new reviews every time I edit so that I don't just post this for nothing. I know I'm asking a lot of you, so here's my role in this. I'll write my VERY VERY best, I promise, and I'll try to make these chapters longer. Anyway, I have this new story called "Shadows of the Raven," which will hopefully boost more reviews and views. My goal for updating is maybe each week? I'll try to update as fast as I can, but sometimes, it'll take a while. ******

Reviews for Briarstar's Choice and Soundless****

****Socially Challenged Wolf:** Thank you for reviewing 5 times. I agree with how you think she looks kawaii, that was actually my goal for her appearance, to look like that. I don't ship it either.
;) ******

****Dustpetal:** I think you made a mistake with Lilyleap to Lilyleap, but thank you for pointing out the mistake :D ******

****Pikawarriorcat:** I'm sorry if I got your name wrong. It was either pika or pike and I'm going with pika. Anyway, thanks for the review, I really appreciate it. :) ******

****Sootstep:** Wow. I don't think anyone's rated my writing 10/10 for everything! I'm sorry I didn't continue it, and I hope this will make it up for you :o)**

Credits****

****Blue741776 and Brighteyes of ThunderClan:** I used the story "Promise," and the story "Blue Shadows," to make this story. I got ideas from them, though this story is not a lot like Promise and Blue Shadows.**

****Erin Hunter:** After all, this is a fanfiction about warriors, and that idea all goes to the Erin Hunter team! Yay! *looks around* Am I the only one clapping?**

****About the review section:** If you review on this story, I will put a reply here. I will also say if anyone has followed or favorited "Shadows of the Raven," too. **

****If you didn't want to read all this, here's some keywords:** Deleted Soundless, Briarstar's ****Choice discontinued, new story called Shadows of the Raven, credits, reviews**

****~Icyz9****

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<p>WindClan

****Leader**** Breezestarâ€"broad-shouldered black tom with pale amber eyes****

****Deputy Heatherfallâ€"wiry pale brown tabby she-cat with dark brown stripes****

****Medicine Cat**** Mintleafâ€"pretty pale gray she-cat with mint-green eyes and white paws****

****Warriors****

****Swiftrunnerâ€"short-furred swift, solid gray tom****

****Oakfrostâ€"dark brown tabby tom with blue-white eyes****

****Splashtailâ€"pale gray she-cat with a white splash on her chest****

Apprentice, Blossompaw****

****Snowstrikeâ€"white she-cat with a silver muzzle, tail-tip, and ear-tips****

Apprentice, Rosepaw****

****Birchpeltâ€"small black-and-white tom with long legs****

****Batwingâ€"black she-cat with dark blue-gray paws and a white tail-tip****

****Lionclawâ€"large golden tom with thick fur around his neck and long, sharp claws****

Apprentice, Wolfpaw****

****Owlfootâ€"reddish-brown tom with big, owl-like amber eyes****

****Crowflightâ€"long-haired smoky gray tom with small ears****

****Flameheartâ€"dappled tortoiseshell-and-white she-cat****

****Squirreltuftâ€"dark ginger she-cat with a bushy tail****

****Sunblazeâ€"bright ginger tom with smooth fur****

****Stormtalonâ€"dark gray tabby tom with thin gray flecks****

****Barkclawâ€"dark brown, almost black, tabby tom

****Harefurâ€"fluffy white tom with pale brown spots****

****Apprentices****

****Rosepawâ€"small, pale pinkish-gray she-cat****

****Wolfpawâ€"pale gray tom with a white chest

****Blossompawâ€"thick-furred calico she-cat

****Queens****

****Dawnskyâ€"splotchy ginger-and-black coat (mother to Oakfrost's kits: Ravenkit: sleek black she-kit with violet eyes, Silverkit: pretty silver tabby she-kit, and Amberkit: pale ginger tabby she-kit)****

****Blueshineâ€"pretty blue-silver she-cat (mother to Stormtalon's kits: Echokit: pale silver-and-white she-kit, Slatekit: light gray tom-kit, and Lightningkit: black tom-kit with a white stripe zigzagging down his pelt)****

****Elders****

****Rabbiteyeâ€"pale gray-and-white tom with one blind eye and one green eye****

****Cherrynoseâ€"ginger tabby she-cat with a strikingly pink nose****

****Acornfootâ€"chestnut-brown tom with a twisted paw****

****SkyClan****

****Leader**** Foxstarâ€"large ginger tom with fox-like markings****

****Deputy Hawkflightâ€"mottled pale ginger and brown tom****

****Medicine Cat Robinfeatherâ€"brown tom with a dark ginger tinged underbelly****

****Warriors****

****Flowerdappleâ€"white she-cat with large rose-colored spots****

Apprentice, Eveningpaw****

****Nettlestemâ€"thin yellow tabby tom with a pale ginger tail****

****Mothwindâ€"golden-brown she-cat with barely-visible stripes****

Apprentice,**** Cypresspaw****

****Duststormâ€"light brown tabby tom with yellow eyes****

****Tawnybirdâ€"cream-and-gray she-cat with a white chest, paws, and tail-tip****

Apprentice,**** Pinepaw****

****Cloverfangâ€"calico she-cat with a long tail and long front claws****

****Nutfallâ€"battle-scarred ragged dark brown tabby tom with a shredded ear****

****Apprentices****

****Pinepawâ€"golden tom with dark brown highlights****

****Cypresspawâ€"gold-and-brown tom with darker front paws****

****Eveningpawâ€"small off-white she-cat with gray swirls****

****Queens****

****Morningskyâ€"tortoiseshell-and-white she-cat with a distinctive dappled coat (mother to Duststorm's kits: Lightkit: creamy brown tom)****

****ThunderClan****

****Leader Brightstarâ€œ"long-haired white she-cat with silver swirls****

****Deputy Scarstripeâ€œ"gray tom with many scars that resemble stripes****

****Medicine Cat Frostwhiskerâ€œ"white tom with long whiskers and kind green eyes****

****Warriors****

****Frozencloudâ€œ"fluffy gray tom with one white paw****

****Goldenhawkâ€œ"golden-brown tom with darker ears****

Apprentice, **** Cloudpaw****

****Duckwingâ€œ"small dark orange she-cat****

****Shadestoneâ€œ"black tom with dark gray paws****

****Thornstrikeâ€œ"gray tom with a white underbelly****

Apprentice, Cinderpaw****

****Creamflowerâ€œ"gorgeous cream-furred she-cat

****Apprentices****

****Cinderpawâ€œ"gray she-cat****

****Cloudpawâ€œ"small white tom****

****Elders****

****Sedgewingâ€œ"cream furred tom with faint brown patches****

****Snowdappleâ€œ"once-beautiful white she-cat with pale silver dapples****

****RiverClan****

****Leader Ripplestarâ€œ"oily-furred black-and-silver tabby tom****

****Deputy Ottercreekâ€œ"lithe light brown tabby she-cat with a plummy tail****

****Medicine Cat Dewdropâ€œ"blue-gray she-cat with white paws

****Warriors****

****Rainspotsâ€œ"blue-gray tom with black spots on his**

back**

**Cloverheartâ€"chocolate-brown tabby
she-cat**

Thistlepeltâ€"gray-and-white tom with spiky fur

**Apprentice, Salmonpaw **

**Mistycloudâ€"fluffy misty-gray she-cat with cloud-colored
patches**

**Apprentice, **** Carppaw**

**Swanfeatherâ€"pretty white she-cat with a black
tail-tip**

Specklefurâ€"black-and-white speckled tom

Troutfangâ€"plump, sleek brown tom

**Rubblestreamâ€"dark gray tabby tom with blue-gray ears, paws, and
muzzle**

Pikeclawâ€"smooth-furred black tom

**Lakemistâ€"pale silver tabby
she-cat**

Apprentices

Carppawâ€"pretty gray she-cat

**Salmonpawâ€"light gray tom with pinkish ears, tail, and
legs**

Queens

**Hailshadowâ€"black she-cat with white front legs and
chest**

**Pebblestreamâ€"long-haired light gray she-cat
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ShadowClan

**Leader Darkstarâ€"night-black she-cat with soft, thick
fur**

**Apprentice, Smokepaw**

**Deputy Badgerstripeâ€"black-and-white tom with a white stripe on
his face**

**Medicine Cat Emberpoolâ€"beautiful bright orange
she-cat**

Warriors

**Deerstepâ€"light brown she-cat with white dapples on her

flanks**

Brambletailâ€"dark brown tabby tom with a spiky-furred tail

Shadestoneâ€"dark tabby she-cat

Rowanflameâ€"red-ginger tabby tom with dark blue eyes

Blackfangâ€"lean light black tom

Spiderstepâ€"long-limbed, thin black tom

Tornpathâ€"small white marbled she-cat with a torn ear

Kinkpeltâ€"dark tortoiseshell tom with fur that sticks out at all angles

Skyfeatherâ€"pale blue-gray tom with feathery fur

**Apprentice, Poppypaw**

Yellowclawâ€"yellow tabby she-cat with a broad, flattened face

Apprentices

Poppypawâ€"silver-gray tabby she-cat

Smokepawâ€"handsome smoky black tom

Queens

Nightfallâ€"black she-cat with a white forehead

Tawnywingâ€"mottled pale tortoiseshell coat

Cats Outside Clans

Oceanâ€"pretty pale blue-gray she-cat with a ringed tail, loner

Willowâ€"light silver she-cat with black tabby markings, loner

Scarletâ€"red she-cat with a black ear and tail-tip, rogue

* * *

><p>Night spilled across the clearing. The last rays of sunset shone magnificently, before disappearing into the smoky black sky. A broad-shouldered midnight-black tom leaped onto the boulder he used to address the Clan. He tipped his head back and yowled, "Let all cats old enough to run on the moors gather here beneath the Tallrock for a Clan meeting!" A splotchy ginger-and-black she-cat made her way toward a dark brown tabby, sitting beside him.<p>

"Do you want to go hunting, Dawnsky?" the tabby asked, flicking his tail. "Breezestar is probably calling the evening hunting patrols." He rolled his eyes. "You know how much he distrusts his new deputy. But I guess he had to pick Heatherfall because it was a message from StarClan. StarClan should never be ignored."

Dawnsky nudged her mate. "I'll go, Oakfrost." She nuzzled him softly. "I want to tell you something while we're at it."

"We'll have two evening hunting patrols," Breezestar meowed from his place on the Tallrock. "Dawnsky, Oakfrost, and Batwing, you may go on the first one. Squirreltuft, Sunblaze, and Swiftrunner will go on the second patrol. Also, while you're hunting, can one of you check the ThunderClan border? Their scents are in our territory and we have found rabbit bones on the border." He growled. "I thought they could be trusted, but it turns out that they want to cause trouble."

Sunblaze dipped his head. "I'll do it." His bright ginger pelt glowed like a brand of fire in the moonlight.

"And take Swiftrunner with you," Breezestar ordered. "You're a new warrior, and I don't want you getting hurt." Swiftrunner bounded to stand beside Sunblaze. The two toms padded toward the entrance, nodding slightly. Dawnsky, Oakfrost, and Batwing headed out of camp too, followed by Squirreltuft.

"We'll go to the place where I found plenty of rabbits," Oakfrost meowed to the other cats. Batwing and Squirreltuft nodded swiftly padding in the other direction. "What is it you were going to say?" Oakfrost asked once they were gone, genuinely curious.

Dawnsky took a deep breath. "We're having kits!" The pretty she-cat wove around Oakfrost, whiskers quivering with excitement.

"That's great news!" Oakfrost purred, his tail entwining with Dawnsky's. "Our kits will be beautiful, perfect in fact." His paws trembled. "I can't believe I'm going to be a father!" Suddenly, a big black raven swooped toward them, one wing stretched out to cover the moon. In complete darkness, Dawnsky whimpered, pressing close to Oakfrost. The raven flew lower, its talons outstretched, aiming for the ginger-and-black she-cat. Dawnsky instinctively clawed at it, clumsily tearing away feathers. The raven sank its talons into Dawnsky's neck, piercing flesh. A drop of blood slid down the splotchy she-cat's fur, staining it.

"No!" Oakfrost leaped in front of his mate, and with a slice of his claws, he tore away the feathers in the night-colored raven's neck. It squawked, leaving enough time for Oakfrost to lash out again. The raven fell to the ground as the dark tabby clawed at its wings, and it landed crookedly, its wings almost clawed off. Blood spurted from the wounds as the raven's head fell back, its body limping.

"Are you hurt?" Oakfrost asked anxiously, sniffing Dawnsky.

"I'm fine," Dawnsky meowed, staring at the dead raven. She wheezed for a moment. "I-I think I should move to the nursery." The splotchy she-cat started to pad heavily across the clearing, as Oakfrost pressed against her, burying his nose into her fur.

"I don't know what I'd do if that raven had took you," Oakfrost whispered. "I'm glad you're okay." The dark brown tabby stopped as Dawnsky gasped for breath, gazing up at the round full moon. _Thank you StarClan, _he thought with a sigh. _Thank you for saving my mate and kits._

* * *

><p>"Dawnsky's kits are coming!" Splashtail hurried into the medicine den, tripping over Mintleaf's pale gray tail. The medicine cat lifted her head sleepily, a yawn parting her jaws. Mintleaf snatched up a few herbs and dashed into the nursery, Splashtail sprinting after her. They squeezed into the gorse bush, a dim, milky atmosphere greeting them, followed by a wail of pain. Dawnsky lay in a nest of moss, lined with ferns and bracken. Her face was twisted with pain and her usually bright amber eyes were closed tightly. Mintleaf dropped the stick near the queen's mouth, and after a moment of moaning, Dawnsky bit down on it. A growl came from outside the nursery as Oakfrost pushed his way into the nursery. His eyes widened as he saw his mate, and he crouched down, lapping at the exhausted queen's head.<p>

Mintleaf glanced at Blueshine, who was curled up around her kits. The blue-silver she-cat's flanks rose and fell peacefully as she slept. Mintleaf turned back to Dawnsky, who was now shrieking as spasms gripped her. The medicine cat placed a paw on her belly and closed her eyes. Mintleaf could feel the squirming of three kits, and as Dawnsky wailed louder and her body convulsed, the medicine cat pressed down as hard as she could. A high-pitched yowl came from Dawnsky, before the queen sank into the nest, her eyes glazed with exhaustion.

"Your first kit is a she-kit," Mintleaf reported. She turned to Oakfrost. "Lick the kit, keep her warm." The dark brown tabby obeyed, bending down to lap his first kit's fur with smooth, strong rasps of his tongue. Another spasm gripped Dawnsky, before Mintleaf pressed her paws to the queen's belly and thrust down. Another kit slid into the nest, mewling. Dawnsky convulsed once more, looking like she was unconscious, except for the small movement of her tail. The last kit was brought into the world, paws churning. Dawnsky looked more awake now, and her eyes shone as she gazed down at her kits. Mintleaf stepped back to look at them as well, leaving room for one of Blueshine's kits that were awake to peek over the top of the nest.

The first kit was a pretty pale ginger she-kit. Her ears were perfectly shaped and her tail was the perfect length. Another kit was a sleek black she-kit. Her pelt looked feathery, and Mintleaf had to admit, she looked like a small raven. Dawnsky's last kit was a silver tabby she-kit with beautiful black stripes. The she-kit had a plummy tail and thick fur. Mintleaf looked at them admiringly. Dawnsky's kits were perfect, every part of them.

"What shall we name them?" Mintleaf watched as Oakfrost leaned toward his mate, his warm breath stirring her ear fur.

"My perfect, beautiful firstborn will be named Amberkit," Dawnsky purred, nuzzling her oldest kit.

"And the pretty little tabby is Silverkit." Oakfrost broke into a purr, touching his cheek to the silver she-kit.

Both cats directed their attention to their last, unnamed kit. "How about Ravenkit?" Oakfrost suggested. His blue-white eyes melted with love. "That is a strong, beautiful name."

Dawnsky froze. Her eyes turned cold as stone. "Have you forgotten when a raven was about to kill me?" she snapped.

"Of course not," Oakfrost mewed, unflinching. "But we should not think about the bad memories before. Ravenkit is a powerful name, and it suits her well."

Dawnsky sighed gustily. "I suppose so." Her eyes were still miniature flames as she gazed at the sleek black she-kit.

Mintleaf pricked her ears. _Does Dawnsky truly not love Ravenkit?_ The medicine cat shook her head. _Of course not. She's just exhausted, that's all._ But Mintleaf couldn't shake off the uneasy feeling she had when Dawnsky gazed at Ravenkit.

2. Doggypets

****Reviews:****

****Blackstar is Awesome:** For your question, no, Breezestar is not Breezepelt. Thanks for the review! I reviewed on one of your stories too :)**

****Favorites/Follows****

****Thank you Blackstar is Awesome, Muffiny the Muffin Goddess, Robincall22, and sanders1800 for following this story. Thank you Blackstar is Awesome, Robincall22, and sanders1800 for favoring this story.****

"What is that?" Ravenkit froze as something cold touched her pads. All around her, something white covered the ground of the camp, and there was still more falling, piling on top of the ones already there. Amberkit and Silverkit, however, didn't seem cold or curious at all. They were bouncing around in the white stuff, their heads barely peeking out from the thick layers of whiteness. It was like they already knew what it was.

"It's snow, silly!" Amberkit shook out her pelt, snow scattering all around her, some landing on a protesting Silverkit. "Remember when Dawnsky told us about it?" The dainty pale ginger she-cat rolled her eyes. "You are _so _forgetful, Ravenkit. She told us this morning!"

"Oh." Ravenkit ducked her head, embarrassed. She smoothed down her spiky chest fur with a few strokes of her tongue. "Well, what are you guys playing then?" The sleek black she-cat hopped into the snow with her sisters, ignoring the coldness of it that felt like a rake of a warrior's claws.

Amberkit cleared her throat importantly. "We're playing Snowball. It's like Mossball, except you roll up snow, not moss. After that, we

sneak up on the others and drop the ball of snow onto them." The she-kit's bright golden eyes shone like miniature suns. "So, do you want to play with us?"

"Sure!" Ravenkit hopped higher and higher in the snow until she could almost stand on top of Amberkit. With a giggle, the black she-kit pawed out some snow from the ground and dropped it on the pretty she-kit. It covered her completely, and for a few moments, Ravenkit and Silverkit waited, only hearing teeth chattering.

"Where's my little Amberkit?" Dawnsky strolled out of the nursery, Echokit, Slatekit, and Lightningkit behind her. The splotchy queen glanced around, a look of shock and fury on her face. "Where is Amberkit?" Her words were a low growl, the full force of her anger directed at Ravenkit.

"Um... Ravenkit dropped a ball of snow on top of her," Silverkit squeaked, taking a few steps back. "I promise I didn't do it! Ravenkit did!" Dawnsky's eyes widened and a long growl rolled in her throat. The queen sank her extended claws into the snow and began digging furiously. A pale ginger kitten's scruff appeared in her mouth, followed by chattering wails. Dawnsky stomped back into the nursery, beckoning to Silverkit.

Once the queen and two kits were gone, Slatekit padded forward until he was nose-to-nose with Ravenkit. "Why can't you be more like Amberkit?" the light gray tom-kit snickered, prodding her with one paw. Ravenkit flinched away from him.

"Yeah." Echokit smirked. "Even Silverkit is more beautiful than you." The silver she-kit looked like a cloud, her white tipped fur puffed up. She shoved Ravenkit into Slatekit, who swatted at her. Echokit and Lightningkit paced around the she-kit, sneering and calling her names. Slatekit jabbed Ravenkit with one claw, pushing her. Lightningkit growled and shoved her back to Slatekit. Tears welled up in Ravenkit's eyes, sliding down her cheek and dripping onto the ground.

"Look! The wimp's gonna cry!" Lightningkit giggled. "Isn't that what kittypets do, Slatekit?" He cocked his head to one side, pretending to think. "Oh, yes, that's what they do." Lightningkit stalked over to her, his blue-green eyes narrowed, holding back a laugh as big floppy tears filled Ravenkit's violet eyes. "Or a rogue? When I become leader, the first thing I'll do is banish you from WindClan, if you're not already dead. You don't deserve to be in this Clan. Go to ShadowClan, see if they want a kittypet kitten, will you?" Lightningkit laughed. "And they won't accept you. After that, you'll have to live your miserable life as a kittypet, correct? Either way, you won't be in our Clan."

They're all stinky, drooling dogs, Ravenkit thought. They're the doggypets! Not me!

"No!" Ravenkit cried out angrily. "I'm not going to be a kittypet or a rogue! I'm gonna be a warrior! All you're going to be is a dog chained up by twolegs! You're the doggypets!" Fast as a snake, she raked Lightningkit's muzzle with her claws. The black-and-white tom jerked back, touching his nose gingerly. He rubbed it, blood staining his paw, and wailed.

"Lightningkit!" Blueshine hurried over to her kit, eyes widening as she saw the scratch on his nose. "Who did this?" The blue-silver queen rasped her tongue over Lightningkit's muzzle, cleaning the blood off of it. Blueshine stared at her other kits and Ravenkit, looking slightly distressed.

"Ravenkit!" Lightningkit pointed a big, black five moon old paw at Ravenkit, who stood frozen in place.

"Dawnsky!" Blueshine yowled. "Look what your daughter did to my son!"

The ginger-and-black queen padded over to them, looking at Lightningkit anxiously. "What? Amberkit and Silverkit would never do this!" She called to the two young she-kits. Amberkit's jaw dropped as she saw Lightningkit. Silverkit stayed muted, staring at the black-and-white tom-kit with a quizzical expression.

"The kittypet did it!" Slatekit pushed his way forward, standing beside his littermate. "She called Lightningkit a doggy and said he was going to be chained up by twolegs!" His eyes blazed with blue fire. "My littermate is not a dog, nor is he a doggy!"

"How dare you say my daughters are kittypets?" Dawnsky stretched her neck forward, baring her teeth. She looked as if she was going to claw Slatekit to death, causing a little tremble from Ravenkit. "Now which one of my daughters did this? You have not answered me!"

"Ravenkit!" Blueshine replied before Slatekit could speak. She pressed her tail to the light gray kit's mouth.

"What?" Dawnsky turned to stare incredulously at the night-black she-kit, who looked like a shadow compared to Amberkit and Silverkit's pale fur. She hissed. "Get out of my sight. You are not my kit and you never will be. Go to ShadowClan, you rabbit-brain. You're as pretty as a hare running around." Dawnsky gazed at Ravenkit's tiny shape coldly, before turning her back on her kit. Tears fell from the she-kit's eyes again, and she ran, stumbling blindly, until she bumped into a thick wall of fur. Ravenkit tipped her head back to see a dark brown tabby tom with icy blue-white eyes.

"Oakfrost?" Dawnsky had told her, Amberkit, and Silverkit about their father. The queen had said that he was very busy, so Ravenkit had only seen him once, when she was very young, her eyes still closed. "Are you my father?"

"Yes, little one." Oakfrost sighed. He licked the black she-kit's head and coiled his tail around her shoulders so Ravenkit would look him in the eyes. Her violet orbs were bright with tears. "What made you cry so hard, sweet?" he asked. Ravenkit told him the whole thing, from when she, Amberkit, and Silverkit were playing Snowball to when Slatekit, Lightningkit, and Echokit pushed her around and called her names. She even told him about scratching Lightningkit's muzzle with claws unsheathed. And Oakfrost had listened intently to everything Ravenkit truthfully told him, soothing her with kind words and strong rasps of his tongue. When she was done with her story, Oakfrost led her back to the nursery and told the three kits to take a nap because _"Dawnsky and I need to talk." _But Amberkit, Silverkit, and Ravenkit

stayed awake, only pretending to sleep when Blueshine kept an eye on them. After she dozed off, the three kits conversed quietly.

"I'm sorry about what happened today," Silverkit apologized. "I shouldn't have told Dawnsky that you dropped the ball of snow on Amberkit. I just didn't want to get in trouble." She glanced anxiously at the growling outside the nursery.

"Me too," Amberkit meowed. "I was fine, really. I should have stood up for you when those doggypets bullied you."

"I forgive you." Ravenkit felt a warmth in her heart as she touched noses with her sisters. She smiled mischievously. "But I still say Lightningkit, Slatekit, and Echokit are doggypets."

"Yeah. I totally agree with you," Silverkit pressed close to Ravenkit's side, their silver and black fur brushing. "Those furballs are the kittypets. I can't believe they pushed you and called you names!"

"Oh, I know they're being a bit mean, but aren't they, like, so handsome?" Amberkit gushed. "Especially Lightningkit. His black pelt looks like the evening sky and the white fur looks like crisp snow on a leaf-bare day." She sighed. "I have to confess something."

"What?" Ravenkit leaned in, stretching her ear-tips until they ached. "Do you have a kit-crush on Lightningkit?"

"Yes," Amberkit admitted. "Come on, let's listen to Dawnsky and Oakfrost." The three kits huddled close together, pricking their ears as Oakfrost growled,

"Why didn't you believe her? Why don't you love her! For StarClan's sake, she's our daughter!"

"Mommy doesn't love us?" Silverkit's voice was barely a squeak. "I hate her, I hate her, I hate her!" She curled her tail over her nose and closed her bright blue eyes. Amberkit prodded her with one paw, but the kit had fallen asleep, her flanks rising and falling evenly, gentle snores escaping her.

"Well, she doesn't deserve to be!" Dawnsky shouted, way over Silverkit and Blueshine's snores. "She isn't pretty at all, she looks like a raven, and she's black! She will never be a true member of this Clan. She has to learn it now!"

Oakfrost's mew was a low growl, barely perceptible. "For once think about how strong she is, how she scratched Lightningkit's muzzle because she had to to get him to shut up. Her sleek fur will be an advantage in battle, not the looks of a kittypet and a weakness. For once don't think about Amberkit and Silverkit when you look at Ravenkit. For once don't think about looks. Amberkit and Silverkit are pretty, yes, but they are also small, and could get crushed in battle very easily. Doesn't the Clan need strong warriors more than pretty she-cats? And didn't you say you always wanted daughters? Now that you have three of them, you have to take good care of them, you and I. Your mind has just built up a wall of hate when you think of Ravenkit. I know there's love deep in your heart, but you never bring it out. Now is the time, before the kits move into the apprentices' den. Please. At least just treat her like your other kits."

"I can't promise to love her," Dawnsky rasped. "I'll take care of her until she's an apprentice. By that time, she won't need me anymore. But Silverkit and Amberkit will always be better in my heart, in my mind. Ravenkit still isn't my daughter." The little black she-kit stretched to see as, without waiting for a reply, Dawnsky stormed into the nursery, her beautiful amber eyes angry. She hopped into her nest lightly and looked around the nursery. Amberkit met her gaze, and Dawnsky actually cracked a smile when she saw her daughter. Ravenkit looked at her mother too, but the queen showed no emotion, just looked at her with the same fiery gaze she always had.

"Let's go to sleep," Amberkit whispered in Ravenkit's ear, touching her muzzle to it gently. The black she-kit nodded, curling up next to her sister. Together, the two of them fell asleep, two scraps of fur in the dim, warm nursery. And beside her she was warmer, warmer than she'd ever been. Ravenkit forced a smile. Amberkit would be there for her, always.

* * *

><p>"Do you want to play on the Ice Slide?" Amberkit asked. This morning had been more beautiful than yesterday's. The clouds were visible, snow-white wisps in the bright blue sky. The three kits had played Snowball all morning, shared a mouse during their middle-of-the-day meal, and now they were going to try sliding down the Ice Slide. Dawnsky had insisted that they take an afternoon nap, but when she had fallen asleep, the kits had sneaked out of the nursery. A paw prodded her. "Well?"<p>

"Sure!" Ravenkit bounded ahead of the others, eyes widening as she saw the majestic slide. It was bigger and taller than she'd expected it to be. Forcing away nervousness, Ravenkit unsheathed her tiny claws and sank them into the paw-holds. Gripping it tightly, she began to climb up the other side of the slide. When Ravenkit reached the top, she stopped for a moment to gaze down. She could see out of camp! Squeaking with excitement now, the sleek she-kit slid down the slide, feeling the wind blowing softly through her fur.

"I'm going next!" Amberkit shared Ravenkit's confidence. The pale ginger she-kit climbed up the side of the slide quickly, purring with delight. As she she-kit slid down the slide, more purrs rumbled in her throat. "That was awesome!" Amberkit mewed once she got to the bottom. "I'm going again!"

"No, my turn!" Silverkit was already at the top of the slide, shifting her paws nervously as she looked down. With a deep breath, she too slid down the slide, giving a small purr halfway down the slide. The three kits took turns going on the slide, until they were out of breath.

"Do you want the elders to tell us a story?" Ravenkit asked. "Like the great battle?"

"Yep!" Silverkit and Amberkit purred, bounding toward the elders' den. Ravenkit smiled, following her sisters. They squeezed into the tight gap in the gorse and sat down on a patch of heather. There were three elders. One was chestnut-brown with a twisted paw. His belly growled, causing Silverkit to giggle. Another elder was a ginger tabby, with a strikingly pink nose. The last elder had a

gray-and-white coat with one glazed eye and one wisdom-filled green eye. Ravenkit stared at him with interest.

"Oops! We forgot to bring them prey!" Ravenkit squeaked with alarm. She ran as fast as she could out of the den to the fresh-kill pile, where she picked a plump rabbit from the bottom. Two lapwings fell on top of Ravenkit, and she pawed them off of her, ducking her head as two warriors chuckled. Ignoring them, the she-kit headed back into the elders' den, dragging the rabbit with her. Its warm aroma made her want to eat it, but Ravenkit forced herself to stay away from it as she gave it to the elders to eat.

When they were done, the brown tom licked his lips. "Prey this good deserves a prize," he rasped. "What would you like to hear?"

"The evils of Brokenstar!" Silverkit answered.

"That was a long, long time ago." The chestnut-colored tom frowned. "Brokenstar drove WindClan out. We were starved and had to leave Clan territories before we were all killed. Firestar and Graystripe brought us back, and Brokenstar was driven out of his Clan, declared that he was a traitor and that he killed his father to become leader."

Ravenkit's violet eyes widened. "That's terrible!"

The brown elder nodded. "Brokenstar was the worst leader the forest has ever seen."

Ravenkit, Amberkit, and Silverkit huddled together, tiny scraps of black, pale ginger, and silver. Silverkit shuddered. "I hope there isn't a leader like him anymore." The three kits drew back as the brown tom barked a laugh, padding forward.

"There hasn't been one for many moons. The Clans have been at peace for longer than we can remember." Ravenkit felt only warmth as she and her sisters pressed against each other, and a smile started to creep up on her face, her violet orbs starting to shine.

* * *

><p>1 moon later

"Today's Blueshine's kits' apprentice ceremony!" Dawnsky purred as she rasped her tongue over Amberkit's sleek pelt. "And you're going too, to see you're denmates become apprentices." She ignored her daughter's protests and continued lapping at her pelt. Silverkit and Ravenkit, who were already groomed, sat at the entrance of the nursery, waiting impatiently.

"Are you done yet?" Amberkit whined. After a few more licks, Dawnsky touched her muzzle to the kit's head. Amberkit shook her off, bouncing out of the nursery. Ravenkit and Silverkit leaped after her excitedly. Dawnsky motioned for the kits to sit in front, coiling her tail around Amberkit's shoulders. Breezestar was sitting on the Tallrock. His pelt was well-groomed, shining like ebony in the late leaf-bare sun. Blueshine led her three kits to the clearing, lining them up side by side.

"Today is one of the most special ceremonies of a warrior's

lifeâ€”the start of their apprenticeship. Slatekit**, **you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Slatepaw. Your mentor will be Owlfoot . I hope Owlfoot will pass down all he knows on to you. Owlfoot, please step forward." The reddish-brown tom padded to stand beside Slatepaw.

"Owlfoot**, **you are ready to take on an apprentice. You had received excellent training from Petalsong, and you have shown yourself to be loyal and brave. You will be the mentor of Slatepaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to him." Owlfoot and Slatepaw touched noses.

"Lightningkit, you have also reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Lightningpaw. Your mentor will be Heatherfall. I hope Heatherfall will pass down all she knows on to you." Breezestar beckoned to his deputy. The wiry brown she-cat slid in beside Lightningpaw.

"Heatherfall, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You had received excellent training from Cherrynose, and you have shown yourself to be clever and kind. You will be the mentor of Lightningpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to your new apprentice." Heatherfall whispered something in Lightningpaw's ear and touched noses with him.

Mintleaf bounded forward, taking Heatherfall's place in the clearing. Cats of WindClan, as you know, I will not be around forever. So it's time I took an apprentice. I have chosen a cat who has shown skill and patience. Your next medicine cat will be Echopaw."

Breezestar gazed down at the silver-and-white she-cat. "Echopaw do you accept the post of apprentice to Mintleaf?"

"I do," Echopaw's clear, confident mew rang across the clearing.

"Then at the half-moon, you must travel to the Moonpool to be accepted by StarClan before the other medicine cats," Mintleaf told her new apprentice.

"The good wishes of all WindClan will go with you," Breezestar purred as Mintleaf touched noses with Echopaw.

"Slatepaw! Lightningpaw! Echopaw!" WindClan yowled.

"We also have an apprentice ready to be a warrior. Rosepaw, please step forward!" The pinkish-gray apprentice's eyes shone as she did as she was told. "I, Breezestar, leader of WindClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend her to you as a warrior in her turn. Rosepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do!" Rosepaw purred loudly.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name.

Rosepaw, from this moment you will be known as Rosewind. StarClan honors your speed and energy, and we welcome you as a full warrior of WindClan." Breezestar touched his muzzle to Rosewind's head, and the pinkish-gray warrior licked her leader's shoulder with respect.

"Rosewind! Rosewind!" WindClan chanted the warrior's new name.

Dawnsky broke into a purr. "I remember seeing Rosewind when she was born. She was so small...so helpless. And now she's a warrior!" But Ravenpaw wasn't think about the new warrior. She was thinking about Blueshine's kits. _Doggypets, Doggypets..._

A/N: This chapter has 3,505 words, according to the fanfiction word counter! This chapter took me a little bit more than two days to write, if you were wondering. Thank you for all the favorites and follows!

4-10-2016

~Icyz9

3. Leave the Swimming to RiverClan

**Reviews:**

meg6175: Thanks for your review! I didn't even think this story was awesome, like Blue Shadows material. But perhaps it isn't ;)

Runingleaf: It's okay if you don't have an account, Runingleaf! I'll admit something: I reread this and I found some mistakes 0.0 Don't worry, I'll fix them.

LuffyOmgCowz: Oooh! Well, you'll see how she's treated by her mother (sort of) in this chapter!

Blackstar is Awesome: I tots agree with you. If everyone hates her, the story gets a little boring. But... things will change...

Willowheart of StarClan: The elders' names are Cherrynose, Rabbiteye, and Acornfoot

**Favorites/Follows**

Thank you Nightpelt225, TheEeveeFan, and Willowheart of StarClan for following this story and Willowheart of StarClan and TheEeveeFan for favoring this story!

~Icyz9

NOW ONTO THE CHAPTER

"Mother?" Ravenkit whispered quietly, snuggling up to Dawnsky's thick, warm fur. The ginger-and-black queen grunted, moving away from her kit. Ravenkit stared at her mother through the darkness, violet eyes glazed over with brightness. But inside, she felt angry, angrier

than ever. How did Amberkit and Silverkit earn Dawnsky's love, and not her? There was no reply from the queen, only a stare coming from her fiery golden eyes. Amberkit and Silverkit were still asleep, pressing their small bodies to the moss of the nest. Ravenkit shivered, suddenly feeling cold. Longing for a dream of great warmth, the little she-kit closed her eyes, waiting for sleep to come to her.

Ravenkit awoke in a meadow, filled with healthy-looking green grass. Flowers sprouted in patches of it, their smooth petals bright with color. The black she-kit glanced around, and spotted a pale silver she-cat. Her jaw dropped. The pale silver cat's pelt looked like StarClan itself had colored it. Yet the pretty cat's blue eyes gleamed with wisdom far beyond Ravenkit's age, and the four moon old kit found herself dipping her head, her mouth dry.

"Why hello, little kitten. My name is Palelily," the silver she-cat mewed. A rustle in the bushes alerted Ravenkit, and they both turned to see a speckled, golden tabby she-cat leap out. "This is Flowerwish," Palelily purred, pressing close to the golden cat. Ravenkit felt a pang of jealousy. Dawnsky would never do that to her, to keep her warm, to groom her fur. Palelily's blue gaze softened. "We are here to tell you something that we haven't even told your Clan leader. Now listen."

"The fall of the fierce breeze will bring another, one that will bring great peace to the Clans for everlasting seasons..."

"Is the breeze Breezestar?" Ravenkit asked, thoroughly shocked at the prophecy. "Will Heatherfall become the next leader and bring peace to the Clans?"

"I'm not done yet!" Palelily snapped.

"When it seems she will benefit her Clan greatly, everyone will believe her, unbeknownst to all that one will rise and one will fade." The StarClan cats disappeared, their prophecy echoing in Ravenkit's ears. When she woke up, she saw that the sun was shining high in the sky.

"Oh no! It's sun-high already!" Ravenkit stumbled out of her nest, bounding out of the nursery. Silverkit and Amberkit turned when they saw her, each with a smile of amusement on their faces. "We thought you'd sleep forever!" Amberkit purred. "You're lucky you got up earlier. Batwing's going to tell us everything about WindClan!" The dainty pale ginger she-kit's smile grew wider.

"Batwing?" Ravenkit echoed. "Who's that?" She racked her brain, trying to think of a warrior with that name. "Is it a she-cat or a tom?"

"It's a she-cat," Amberkit responded. "Batwing's just moved to the nursery. She's expecting Breezestar's kits. Come on, let's go!" The pale ginger kitten padded into the nursery eagerly, kicking up frozen dirt from the ground. Ravenkit padded after her, Silverkit at her side. Inside the nursery, which the four-moon-old kit had not noticed, lay a beautiful black queen with dark blue-gray paws and a tail-tip the color of fresh snow. Ravenkit blinked as she realized this must be Batwing. The queen's belly was slightly rounded with kits, and her face lit up as the kits, one-by-one, slid into the

nursery. They sat side by side like squirrels on a tree branch as Batwing told them about the Clans.

"Do you know what the five Clans are called?" Batwing asked gently, bending down to lap at the three kits' heads.

"There's five?" Silverkit mewed, scrunching up her nose. "Um, I know there's WindClan, ThunderClan, ShadowClan, and RiverClan, but what is the fifth Clan?" The silver she-kit shut her eyes tightly, trying to remember. Ravenkit racked her brain too, thought she couldn't think of a fifth Clan.

"It's SkyClan," Batwing mewed solemnly. "They were once chased out of the forest and their Clan didn't exist for moons, but now they are growing stronger and stronger because of their ambitious leader, Foxstar. Now, can you recite the warrior code?"

"No. Dawnsky's never taught it to us," Amberkit chirped. "She says it's too complicated for young kits like us." Her fluffy ginger tail that normally stuck up in the air drooped. "I wish she'd teach us it. That's the one thing I've been wanting to learn for my entire life!"

"Really? Dawnsky probably just cares about looks. After all..." Batwing shot a glance at Ravenkit, "the only reason she doesn't like you is because she thinks you aren't pretty." Her words caused a cringe from Ravenkit, who fought back tears that threatened to fall to the ground.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean that..." Batwing mewed sympathetically, before trailing off, for her words only caused Ravenkit to cry harder. She pressed against the kitten until her tears stopped falling. "I'll teach you about the warrior code!" the queen said cheerfully. "There are sixteen different rules in the warrior code."

"The first and most important rule is: defend your Clan, even with your life. You may have friendships with cats from other Clans, but your loyalty must remain to your Clan, as one day you may meet them in battle." Batwing kept on talking, but Ravenkit ignored her, running out of the nursery. She stopped to gaze at the puffy white clouds, a small sigh escaping her.

"Oh, hello Ravenkit." A muscular black tom padded toward her. His deep mew was almost a growl, but his sleek, fluffy fur looked as soft as a kittypet's. Ravenkit's jaw dropped, thoughts swarming in her mind. _Maybe I can be leader too! After all, Breezestar looks just like me, and he is a brilliant hunter and fighter! _A chuckle broke into her thoughts. Ravenkit gazed upward, trying to look unafraid. "Sit and talk with me," he offered, settling on the patch of moss in front of the nursery.

"Um..." Ravenkit shifted her paws uncomfortably. She was very interested in talking to the WindClan leader, but she had way more important things to do, like learning about the warrior code. Guilt crashed over her, blinding her for a moment, before she could see clearly again. _Just do it, _a voice said inside her. "Okay, but just for a little while."

Breezestar broke into a purr. "Finally there's a cat that looks just

like me! You and I both have black pelts, as well as sleek, fluffy fur." He flattened his ears. "Rabbiteye was once my denmate, and look what happened to him. He became blind in one eye in a battle with the foxes. All I got was a few minor scratches. Do not falter under Blueshine's kits' glares or dirty looks the Clan might give you. You have much to offer to WindClan."

Ravenkit's pelt grew hot. "I-I guess so," she stammered. "Well... what else do you want to talk about?"

"I'll tell you about the warrior code and every cat in the Clan. You already know the first rule"what is it?" Breezestar settled back on his haunches, as if challenging her.

"To defend your Clan, even with your life," Ravenkit recited. The last word she said was drowned with purrs wracking Breezestar's body.

"Correct! The next rule is: do not hunt or trespass on another Clan's territory. This is very important, because you could get attacked without mercy if he crossed the border." For the rest of the day, Breezestar went through the entire warrior code and whispered in her ear what he thought about every cat in the Clan. They were mostly good things, except for when Breezestar said Rabbiteye was very annoying and Blossompaw talked too much.

After Ravenkit had said her good-byes to her leader, she sneaked out of camp, relishing the cool rain soaking her fur. She passed the horseplace and continued on her way to the body of water ahead. The small black she-kit pranced over to the stream, poking at the reeds that grew near it. The water in it was almost filled to the brim, but clever, reckless Ravenkit leaped into it, squeaking happily. I bet I'll get made an apprentice before all my littermates! And this will definitely make Dawnsky love me. For a few moments, Ravenkit bobbed above the water, not knowing that water could harm her.

Then she sank. She actually, no lie, sank.

Ravenkit cried out as her head went beneath the water. Raising her chin, the kitten tried desperately to reach the surface, to reach safety. It never even came close to where she wanted it. Ravenkit's eyes stung. Her fur felt drenched with water, making her have to carry extra weight. Her lungs felt like they were on fire. Finally, getting a peek at the shore that seemed to get farther and farther, Ravenkit started to thrash, fighting her way up. For the first time in her life, she felt peace, as if she were tied to this fate. This is not the kind of destiny I want, Ravenkit thought angrily, thinking of how her kin would feel. But mostly, she thought of Dawnsky. How would she when she found out that one of her daughters had drowned?

A yowl came from the shore, and a cat jumped into the stream, swimming with smooth strokes to get to the drowning kit. It sank its teeth into her scruff and dragged her to shore, grunting with exertion as he reached it. Ravenkit peered at him more close, eyes widening as she realized it wasn't a cat from her Clan. The tom didn't have the lithe, slender builds of WindClan cats, nor did he have shorter fur. Instead, the tom that rescued her had a plump, well-fed body, with incredibly long fur. The cat was a dark gray tom, with handsome blue-gray markings on his ears, paws, and

muzzle.

Without speaking, the RiverClan cat led Ravenkit back to camp. The she-kit dipped her head in thanks, and pushed her way through the thick walls of gorse and heather. The first cat to notice was Swiftrunner, who reported to Breezestar. Filled with exhaustion, the black kitten ignored the gasps and questions erupting from the cats guarding the camp and collapsed in her nest.

For the first time, she didn't mind that Dawnsky had moved away from her.

* * *

><p>"You actually almost drowned?" Amberkit cried, her voice filled with disbelief. Her sun-colored eyes gleamed withâ€"fear? relief? Mintleaf was sniffing her anxiously, pressing cobwebs to the minor cuts she'd gotten in the stream. Echopaw was nearby, hiding her shocked expression with a bare of the teeth. The medicine cat apprentice padded forward.<p>

"Oh, the great and powerful Ravenkit saves herself from drowning!" Echopaw mocked, a smug look on her face.

"Go get some more cobwebs!" Mintleaf snapped. "You need to help. WindClan doesn't need a medicine cat who is too lazy to heal the cats of her Clan!" Ravenkit shot a grateful look at Mintleaf. A few moments later, Echopaw came back with the cobwebs in her teeth, wrapped by some sort of leaves.

"Do you need a poppy seed?" Echopaw asked with a sickening sweetness in her voice. She pawed a small black seed toward the young kit.

"Echopaw! You know better than to do that!" Mintleaf hissed. "That is not a poppy seed! It's foxglove!" The WindClan medicine cat glared at her apprentice as she faked innocence.

_I'll leave the swimming to RiverClan, _Ravenkit decided. _But I still won't give up on earning Dawnsky's love._

A/N: Thanks for reading!

~Icyz9

4-16-2016

End
file.